

NCA

VOC FOR IOP/FM

BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5540
DAVID LENT/ROME

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ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATIONER

ANNCR:

EFFORTS TO SOLVE ITALY'S POLITICAL CRISIS NOW IN ITS SIXTH WEEK, ARE PROCEEDING ON TWO LEVELS. FROM ROME, VOA'S DAVID LENT SENDS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT:

VOICE:

DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROGRAM OF A GOVERNMENT ARE PROCEEDING ON THE SURFACE. PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE, GIULIO ANDREOTTI IS MEETING WITH EXPERTS OF THE SIX PARTIES WHO ARE TO SUPPORT HIS PROPOSED GOVERNMENT. EVEN ON THIS LEVEL, HOWEVER, PROBLEMS ARE CROPPING UP. DIFFERENCES HAVE EMERGED ON WHERE TO GET THE MONEY NECESSARY TO BRACE UP ITALY'S FALTERING ECONOMY. ALSO ON HOW TO REFORM THE POLICE.

BUT THE DIFFERENCES OVER PROGRAM APPEAR MINOR IN COMPARISON WITH DIFFERENCES OVER THE PRECISE ROLE OF THE COMMUNISTS IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE TASK IS TO DEVISE A FORMULA WHICH GIVES THE COMMUNISTS SUFFICIENT RECOGNITION SO THAT THEIR LEADERSHIP CAN CONVINCE THE RANK AND FILE THAT THE PARTY HAS TAKEN A REAL STEP CLOSER TO POWER. THE FORMULA SHOULD, AT THE SAME TIME, LIMIT RECOGNITION OF THE COMMUNISTS SUFFICIENTLY, SO THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC DEPUTIES CAN TELL THEIR VOTERS THAT THEY DID NOT AGREE TO A FORMAL COALITION WITH THE COMMUNISTS

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENT ALDO MORO, A VETERAN PRACTITIONER OF THE SUBTLE ART OF ITALIAN POLITICS, IS REPORTED TO HAVE COME UP WITH A FORMULA WHICH MIGHT FULFILL BOTH CONDITIONS. HE WOULD NOT HAVE ALL SIX PARTIES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNISTS, SIGN THE PARLIAMENTARY DOCUMENT OF AGREEMENT ON THE

GOVERNMENT AS THE COMMUNISTS ARE DEMANDING. NOR WOULD HE HAVE ONLY THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY SIGN IT AS THE HARD-LINE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ARE DEMANDING. INSTEAD, MISTER MORO IS PROPOSING TO HAVE THE DOCUMENT SIGNED ONLY BY TWO VETERAN POLITICIANS, ONE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, AND ONE IN THE SENATE. NEITHER IS A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT NOR A COMMUNIST. WHETHER THIS PLOY WILL WORK MAY BECOME CLEAR LATER THIS WEEK. IF AGREEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT ON THE PROGRAM, MISTER ANDREOTTI WILL CALL ANOTHER SUMMIT MEETING OF PARTY LEADERS.

BUT AGREEMENT ON THE PROGRAM IS NOT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. UNION LEADERS HAVE DEMANDED A MEETING WITH MISTER ANDREOTTI BECAUSE THEY SAY HIS PROPOSALS ARE DEMANDING LARGER SACRIFICES THAN THEY AGREED TO AT A RECENT TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION CONGRESS. AND HARDLINE DEPUTIES WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAVE A PLEDGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP FOR A MEETING LATER THIS WEEK AT WHICH THEY WILL PRESS THEIR OPPOSITION TO ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH HAS THE APPEARANCE OF AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND THE COMMUNISTS.

GH/PY